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Let's Celebrate the Positive Difference Foster Parents Make

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The wonderful foster families who open their hearts and homes to children who are state wards because of abuse or neglect or whose families are in crisis deserve a big 'thank you' from us all.

Some children can continue to live with their own families while receiving supports and services. For others, we have to find another living arrangement, and often this is with a caring foster parent.

There are more than 3,000 reasons to consider becoming a foster parent. That's how many children are in foster care at any point in time in our state.

Foster families give children a better chance at a successful future. They help brothers and sisters stay together, and their commitment provides the opportunity for healthy growth, development and change until the family can be successfully reunited.

A foster parent can be anybody who is caring and who can provide structure and consistency for children in their home. We especially need homes for teens. Foster parents help teens develop self-confidence and learn the skills they need to move successfully into young adulthood.

Finding loving foster homes is a high priority for us at the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services. I'd like to encourage you to call 1-800-7PARENT or go to www.nfapa.org to learn more about how you can make a difference in the life of a child.